

Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management

Office of Communications

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News and Information
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Prineville District BLM Office Remains Closed As Hazmat Investigation Continues Limited Public Services Are Available

Prineville, OR—The Prineville District of the Bureau of Land Management office remains closed today as a hazardous materials investigation focused on air and water quality inside the building continues. Limited services are being provided to the public until the building reopens.

The office was closed Friday, September 13, after several employees and firefighters experienced medical symptoms ranging from coughing and running eyes to tightness in the chest. Three employees were taken to area hospital emergency rooms. All affected individuals have recovered and no additional employees have developed symptoms.

Air and water samples taken from the building are being analyzed. Test results are expected on the water samples today and the air samples Wednesday afternoon. Once the cause has been determined or the building is declared safe, the office will reopen. “We are being cautious,” said Prineville District manager Barron Bail. “Public and employee safety is our primary concern.”

The reception phone for the Prineville BLM office has been forwarded, so the public can reach the BLM office at the regular phone number, (541) 416-6700. Some employees have returned to work in other locations. Some maps and permits can be purchased at the Ochoco National Forest office next door to the BLM office or at the Deschutes National Forest offices in Bend. Prineville District juniper bough permits will not be available until the office reopens.

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